

**THE**

VOL. XXIV No. 4

No. 142 1997

# **MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR**



Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, Inc.

## Bottles & Extras

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# Let's Talk

## Let's Talk

Yes, that's it, the missing "e" from the end of The Concorde on the last issue's cover. I guess you could say we sort of Americanized it!

Now that I've opened the Pandora's Box on past mistakes, here are some to correct from issue #140. Holm Hars pointed out the errors. Coco Loco and Cactus Jack have been out for over two years. The Coco-LoCo is a coconut-pineapple liqueur, not a coconut-banana liqueur. The bottles with the humorous pictures (sex scenes) are from Germany, not Austria. And finally, Qualitatsbrand is not a distillery. The word means Brand of High Quality.

Now it is my sad duty to report the passing of a man who was considered to be one of our collecting greats. I'm speaking of Mr. Pat McMullen who died just prior to the St. Louis show. He was surely there in spirit. If you were one of the lucky collectors who traveled to his home in St. Joseph, MI, to meet him and see his collection, you'll know why Pat will be long missed.

Finally, I want to add a bit to both the last issue and this one. In #141 Tony Natelli showed the Cadenhead Irish bottles. Well, a few of them have been brought to California by the importer. Cost will be about \$100 per bottle. How many should I put you down for?

The other item is the old Rip Van Winkle in this issue. Turns out there is indeed a 12 year old, so now it's a set of three!

See you in the Fall.

DMS

THE

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

## Features

WHAT'S NEW.....	4
Other goodies AND the Grey Goose.	
TREASURES OF THE PAST.....	7
A great set of Armagnacs.	
FROM JAPAN.....	
Four new excellent ones.	
SCOTCH.....	10
A good bunch of new ones.	
"THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS".....	13
Schlitz, of course.	
STROH.....	14
A set of 12 from Germany.	
RUMS.....	16
Jacques has some marvelous ones.	
IRISH: BUSHMILLS.....	18
A well known company this time.	
MBC and the WEB.....	21
A new guide.	
AKVAVIT, AQUAVIT.....	22
No matter how you spell it.	
MELO'S MINIS.....	24
Four more old Californians.	
GLASS.....	26
Stock and Advocaat ... it rhymes.	

## Our Cover

We go back just about a century for our cover this time. The character on the left has been called A Santa Claus by some. This is possibly due to the red outfit. The companion piece on the right has been known by some collectors as The Professor. It doesn't matter who they are, they're still a delightful pair of old German giveaways welcome in almost any collection.

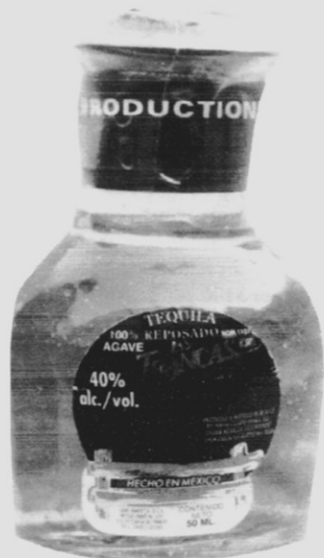
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# WHAT'S NEW



There are a good many interesting ones for you this time. Some are available here, some only via mail or other collectors.

Let's begin with those sold here. Vic Visalli is always on the look out for new ones in New Jersey and New York. He recently found three new plastic bottles which are definitely worth having. Don't know how well they will reproduce but the two Ocumares are very nicely done, particularly for plastic. The skink or chameleon on the label is also embossed on the back of the bottle. These two rums come to us from Venezuela.





For sheer colorfulness, we have 99 Bananas which you'll also note is 99 proof. This Banana Schnapps Liqueur is one strong banana. Those who have tasted the liqueur from the big bottle tell me that it's quite good.

Moving on to two more "white goods", we have Trancas Tequila and Grey Goose Vodka. Trancas of course hails from Mexico. It's an expensive one but it's also blown glass and an exact replica of the larger bottle. Grey Goose is imported from France and you'll see it almost everywhere. It's also expensive (for a vodka) but beau-



tifully done.

Now some of you are wondering why I didn't begin with the Old Rip Van Winkle. A Kentucky Bourbon must be sold here, right? Wrong. This comes from Scotland. Yes, you read that correctly. It was exported in bulk and then bottled in Scotland. What you're seeing here is the front of the 10 year old version and the back of the 15 year old. They also vary in proof. What doesn't vary is the label which is an exact replica of the larger bottle sold here and bottled in Kentucky.

Our last two pieces are from

Costa Rica and France. The Valdespino Brandy is originally from Spain but imported and then bottled in San Jose, Costa Rica, by Holtermann & Company. Strangely it is 81 proof (40.5%) and 47.50ml. Finally from France we have a new version of the Larsen X.O. Cognac. The ship Invincible is embossed in the glass above the label. And, if you're looking to add some of the ceramic ships to your collection, you have just a short wait. Several of these elegant Larsen bottles have recently been imported.

That's all for now. Who knows what next time will bring! --DMS--





## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by  
BUTCH JONES



We take a step back in time to review six gems from the 1930's. I would venture to say that only advanced collectors would have these bottles in their collections. These six green bottles are filled with various categories of armagnac.

The first is 60 Ans (Years) Reserve, followed by 25 Ans Cour Royale. The next is the 3 Star, then the 15 Ans V.S.O.P. The fifth is a 40 Ans Caveau Prive and the last is a V.O. Hope you enjoyed these very old and very rare armagnacs.

--B.J.--

# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



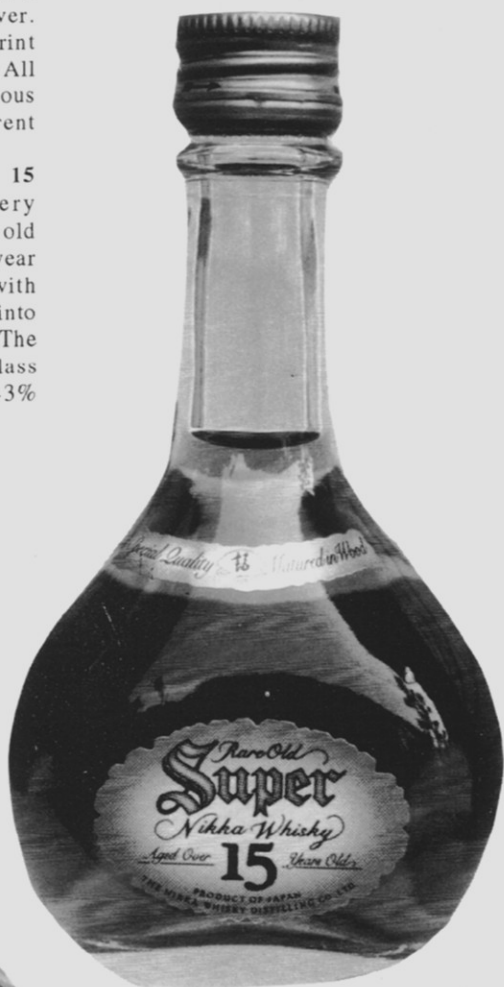
This time I would like to present to you some Japanese Whisky miniatures which were issued in the first half of 1997.

The first two Whiskies, **KIRIN-SEAGRAM EMBLEM** and **NIKKA ALL MALT**, were renewed to respond to a trend of taste by the consumers who like a light whisky. Distilleries changed their alcoholic volume from 43% to 40% and their labels were also changed. Both bottle shapes are the same however.



Emblem has a brown label with a tan frame and letters, not silver. 'Emblem' is also written in print type, not script. The label of All Malt is golden as was the previous one, but mat and has different arrangement of letters.

The next is **SUPER NIKKA 15 Year Old**. Nikka Distillery released Super Nikka 15 year old in March of 1996. Then a year later the miniature appeared with an off-white label shading off into a tan color and the '15' in red. The bottles the familiar clear glass which contains 50ml at 43% alcohol.



The last miniature is a Pure Malt Whisky **MERCIAN KARUIZAWA 17 Year Old**. I mentioned about the Karuizawa 15 year old in the MBC No. 130 (#4 1995) and soon Mercian upgraded from 15 years to 17 years. This 100ml miniature which is available only at the distillery shop was released after about a year. All is the same except for the age.

Until next time.....

--T.S.--

# SCOTCH

## David Maund

Sorry I wasn't with you last time. I surely didn't run out of bottles to show you, just the time to do it. This issue I thought you'd like to see some of the newest issues.

Let's begin with McClellands 16 year old Highland Malt Scotch. This is in addition to the set of three McClellands issued previously by Bowmore their parent company. This bottle is in glass but I've been told by your editor that there is a plastic version in the U.S.

Many of you have seen the various Glengoyne bottles, but this new 17 year old is long overdue. For those who like to collect exact miniature replicas, this is a must. Please note the tube which is another plus.

For many years MacDonalds has produced a blend, so those of you looking for malts will like this new Glencoe 8 year old. I confess it has been available for some time, but it's surely new to the U.S. collectors. Tamnavulin is a new







label variation. Nothing spectacular but still one to add, particularly if you like the Spey-side malts.

Royal Island comes in several versions, but I've only the two. There is a 12 year old available only at the distillery or by mail and also a very expensive 30 year old with a much different label. This last as well as the two shown were done for Japan. They were produced on the Isle of Arran which also gives us Lochranza.

Finally a trio of lovelies from Arthur Bell. Each of these was produced in a limited edition of 120 pieces. The labels certainly do leave something to be desired; however, when balanced against the 120 lot production, they are bottles I had to have.

Sorry I was unable to make the show in St. Louis, but I'm trying to arrange things to come to the one in Anaheim later this year. Hope to see some of you there. --D.L.M.--

# "THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS"

by JOHN WYSS

Today I have pictured a couple of pre-prohibition mini beers from the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. of Milwaukee. Now, you may have to squint a little in order to pick up any differences in the label, but I assure you they are not the same. (Sorry for the rather poor picture quality.)

Please refer to page 21 of R. Kay's *MINIATURE BEER BOTTLES AND GO-WITHS* for another comparative picture of a Schlitz pre-pro mini (WI-2). I believe we are now looking at three different specimens! This is more than reasonable as Schlitz was around for more than a few years before Prohibition. They produced a good amount of souvenirs and advertisements and they have made a lot of minute changes in their labels over the span of a century or so.

To begin with, please note that all three bottles are of similar glassware type (blown in mold, applied lip), size (about 5 1/2" tall), and possess the same closure style (cork, wire harness and what's left of a lead wrapping). All three are also bottom embossed SCHLITZ MILWAUKEE as depicted on the bottle laying on its side (although the number in the center is some times different.)

Bottle number one is virtually the same as the one pictured in the book except for color and shading differences. The book shows a light brown label with white "Schlitz" lettering while the beer I have pictured for you is entirely tan colored including the word "Schlitz:". That's it! Even the small print reads the same and

appears to be in the exact same configuration.

The second bottle is quite different altogether. The words are now white again with a brown background as in the beer pictured in R. Kay's book. So what's new? Schlitz now decided to incorporate the slogan "The Beer that Made Milwaukee Famous" at the bottom of the label.

The third bottle simply shows the bottom embossing highlighted with paint to enhance legibility. Embossed Schlitz pre-pros without labels are worth about only \$15, as they are not very displayable.

Are there any more variations out there? If so, how about a quick note or even a picture for all of us to share.

Cheers....

--J.W.--



# STROH

by SCOTT REINHART



This sampler set is from the famous Stroh Company of Germany. Their most famous product is possibly the 151 proof (or higher) rum. For some strange reason, it is not included in this set.

The cover of the set's cardboard box is presented here for you. It shows an old Prussian officer who perhaps is the founder. However, it is what's inside the box that interests us. Just in case you don't want to get out your magnifying glass, here goes.

The first six are the following:  
Marillen Likör  
Zwetschen Likör

Slivowitz  
Himbeer  
Marillen  
Kirsch Likör  
and, the remaining six are,  
Alpen Krauter  
Inlander Rum  
1832 Obstler  
Tannen Zapfengeist  
Oebirgs Geist  
Enzian

In case you've a desire to taste a strange liqueur should you get a set like this, beware the Tannen Zapfengeist. It's made from pine sap and tastes like turpentine!.

--S.R.--





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# RUM

OLD and NEW

by JACQUES ROLLET



I have some more recent very attractively labeled bottles for you this time. They come from three different areas: Guadeloupe, Martinique and Guyane Francaise. The last you know as French Guiana.

From Guadeloupe we have Rhum Marsolle. This label features a colorful Islander. To me it is nice, but the least interesting of

the labels. Near to Guadeloupe we have Martinique with the white rum Tartane from the company G. Hardy. The galleon on the label is much more to my liking. There is also an old rum Tartane from G. Hardy, but it's label is much too plain. I did not mention that the Hardy bottles are of frosted glass.

Now though we come to the best.



From the northeast coast of South America three bottles with magnificent labels. All three are the products of Jean-Pierre and Ernest Prevot. The Coeur de Chauffe or Heart of the Cane shows a plantation owner(?) in his white suit standing in the shadow of the sugar cane. Then one of my two favorites, La Cayennaise which

features a small ship and a smiling woman. It is very, very colorful. AND both of these are 55% alcohol.

Even though the last bottle La Belle Cabresse is only 50% alcohol, it is still 100% colorful and my other favorite. I hope you have enjoyed my rums with the pretty ladies...ah, labels. --J.R.--

# IRISH WHISKIES

by TONY NATELLI  
and  
BILL ORR



Bushmills is another of the five brands of Irish Distillers, Ltd. currently being marketed worldwide. It appears to be the only one, of the five, being sold in the U.S.A. at this time.

Old Bushmills, Bushmills 10 year old Malt, and Black Bush are all being imported here in the familiar square bottle and will also be found in other countries, in different configurations, including

plastic flasks.

The Bushmills 1608 12 year old is also current, but as of now it's a non-import here. It's most often seen as part of a set in certain duty free shops as airports.

The Special Old Liqueur, while relatively recent, is rarely seen while the first 9 year old, a 1950's import is, more common.

The second 9 year old (round bottle) and our final three (two



whiskies and a malt) are all old (1930's) and rare. The first whiskey is a magnificent old flask. It's large for a mini but a beauty none-the-less.

We've saved the "best for last". The Millennium is a real prize. It was bottled from a 1975 cask and intended only for a few major executives. This is said to exist in almost no collections and is a dream bottle for many whisky collectors.

--B.O./T.N.--

# BUSHMILLS



# MBC on the Web

by SCOTT SPAID

Hello there! Some of you may remember me from when I was a little kid collecting mini beer bottles under my dad's wing. Others may know me as the Webmaster of The Miniature Bottle Collector Online. Either way, I'm happy to present this first of many articles dealing with the MBC Web site at

<http://www.bottlecollecting.com/>

For those of you who don't know me, Scott Spaid is my name and building Web sites is my game (sorry, couldn't help myself, it's my father's influence). One day about two years ago, the idea hammer-hit us in the head and we said, "We need to put MBC on the Internet." Since that initial seed was planted, we have seen MBC Online grow from a simple home page to the newly released sixth edition.

We encourage you to go to the Web site and have some fun. Here is what you will need to check out the full color photographs, special articles, and select back issue info:

1. Access to a computer with an Internet connection -- check your local library or university if you don't own a computer.
2. A Web browser. A Web browser is a program that allows you to view Web pages, full-color photographs, sound and other media types. Net-

scape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer are very popular and we recommend them.

3. Our Web site address:

<http://www.bottlecollecting.com/>

4. Lots of time! The Web is a big place and you will find thousands of sites dealing with collecting and collectibles. However, you will find only one Internet magazine dealing with miniature bottle collecting: MBC Online.

The latest edition of MBC Online features articles on rums, brand knock-off bottles, the odd Snake German Giveaway, ceramics and a new online exclusive series featuring unlisted, one-of-a-kind miniature beer bottles.

MBC Online is going through somewhat of an evolutionary process as we see literally thousands of visitors from all over the world coming to the Web site. Stay tuned in the months to come as we have some exciting plans in store for you. And don't forget to sign the collectors' guest book when you visit the Web site.

Sociologists and huckster alike are still unsure whether or not collecting is an inherited trait or an environmentally adapted one. Considering my father is editor of both MBC and MBC Online, we'll let you be the judge! --S.S.--

# AKVAVIT, AQUAVIT

by VIC VISALLI



Akvavit has been the "Danish Wine" for more than 400 years. In fact, it accounts for 70% of all the spirits sold in Denmark. Traditionally consumed with beer, Akvavit has been a popular spirit since 1555, during the days of King Christian III. Archeological evidence shows that distilling reached Denmark around 1400. A method of making a medicinal version of Akvavit was published in 1534 according to *The World Guide to Spirits, Aperitifs, and Cocktails*. The Danish kings of

those times were legendary drinkers of Akvavit, so much so that Shakespeare and Robert Burns modeled their escapades in their chronicles and poetry.

By 1843 there were already attempts to curb illicit spirits, and the campaign resulted in only a few distilleries that produce Akvavit today.

Akvavit (or Aquavit), a rather potent drink at 80-90 proof, is usually served throughout a meal in a one ounce glass, straight from the freezer, accompanied by a





glass of ice cold lager as a chaser. The Danes call this "skaling". It can even be used to make a Scandinavian Irish Coffee.

The two most known brands, found in mini collections today, are Aalborg, a caraway flavored Danish Akvavit and Lysholm Linie Aquavit from Norway. Linie is flavored by potato, caraway and other herbs. The Norwegians prefer the alternate spelling as Aquavit.

The five bottles pictured here were obtained as part of a case of 12 different tasting samples of Akvavit that were sent to the owner of Schumer's Wine and Liquors, a fine spirits shop in Manhattan. These five brands can presently be found only in the 750 ml size.

These five bottles are clearly

samples as there is no government warning or importer indicated. Although the word Akvavit appears on only three of the five labels, I'm quite certain the other two are the same type of spirit.

The labels are very colorful. The absence of the Maltese cross indicates that they are not of Danish origin.

Finally, although these bottles are not available in miniature at Schumer's, they do carry a very complete selection of minis for the collector. Their turnover in the stock of minis is rapid, so they have no published list, per se. However, if you are ever in New York City, stop in to pay a visit to Larry and Spiro. They will be most accommodating. The address may be found in the Dealer Directory of this publication. -V.V.--

# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In the last article we looked at brand variations that were clearly different entities. In this article I will feature pairs which are not quite as pronounced. I have chosen to keep these bottles because I like them and they are fairly rare. Again, collecting is a matter of personal preferences.

Anyway, the first pair are Golden Oak Bottled by Bohemian Distributing Co. Los Angeles. The first one is Straight Bourbon Whiskey at 100 proof, 15 months old and has a multicolored label with a light yellow background. The other is Straight Whiskey at 100 proof, was Bottled August 1934 and

has a light brown label.

The second pair has the same brown label printed with silver and white. They are Four Bits Straight Bourbon Whiskey at 80 proof, 4 months old and were Bottled by San Angelo Wine & Spirits Company, Los Angeles. The taller embossed bottle has an older 1935 paper California tax stamp. The short bottle has a decal tax stamp and a back label which states the Whiskey is 7 months old.

Finally, since these pairs are so similar, I would consider trading one of them. It would have to be one hell of a trade. Does anyone care to tempt me?



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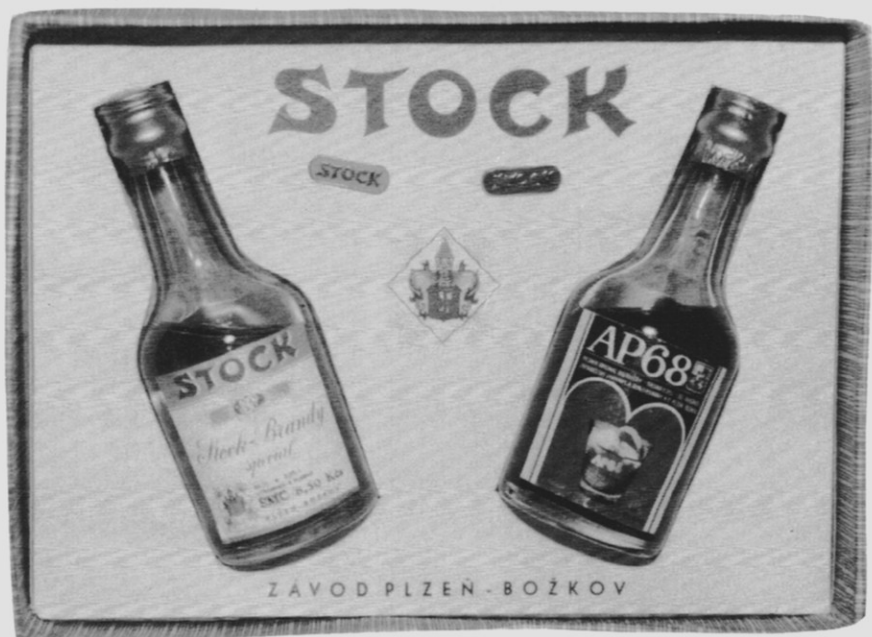
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# GLASS

by HOLM HARS



This time I have several different old bottles for you to see. At the first is the box of two old minis from Stock of Italy. However, these are exports to the old Czechoslovakia. Also included are two badges.

The second group is of four Advocaats from Holland. These are from Cooymans & Zoon, Melchers, and Herman Jansen. Surely you in the States have seen at least one of these.

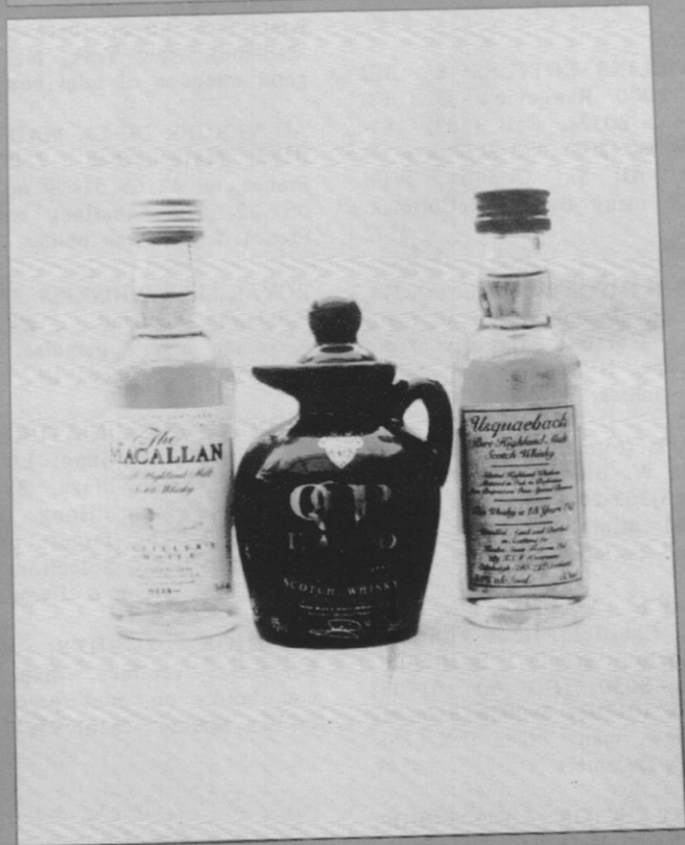
--H.H.--

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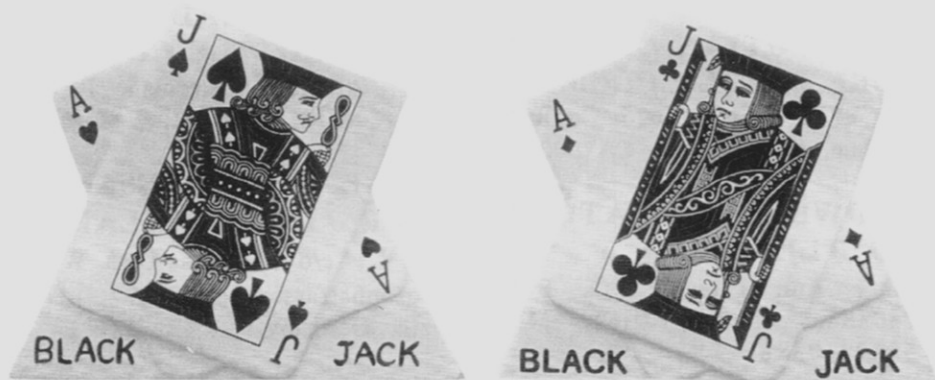
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